

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program, which was broadcast via satellite on August 14, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female announcer]

The best songs and the latest news from Radio Farda.

The News from Radio Farda.

[Host Farin Asemi]

-The President of the Islamic Republic denied sending any kind of weapon to the Taliban.

-Lawyers for Mansour Osanloo met with him in the Evin prison.

-The wife of Farshad Ghourbanpour, reporter for the suspended newspaper *Ham Mihan*, says she is not able to provide security for her husband.

The time is 18 and 30 minutes. Hello, you are listening to the Evening Magazine of Radio Farda. I, Farin Asemi, will be your host for the next hour. Today is Tuesday, Mordad 23, 1386, equivalent to August 14, 2007.

In today's Evening Magazine we have prepared a variety of news for you. First, Toumaj Tahbaz will present the latest news.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

Good evening, Ms. Asemi and good evening to our valued listeners. We will start our news with Mr. Ahmadinejad's trip to Afghanistan. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic, who is in Kabul on a one day visit, said during a news conference at the end of his discussions with Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, that he doubts that the reports about sending any kind of weapons to the Taliban are true and denied those reports.

He added that Iran and Afghanistan share a long border and the security situation of Afghanistan has a direct effect on the security situation in Iran. US army commanders in Afghanistan have said on several occasions that they have found Iranian made weapons in the hands of the rebels. During Mr. Ahmadinejad's trip six cooperation treaties, including the fight against

terrorism, were signed. The President of the Islamic Republic is going to Turkmenistan from Kabul. You will hear more details about Mr. Ahmadinejad's trip to Central Asia in this Shamgahi (Evening) Magazine.

Youssef Molaei and Parviz Khorshidi, lawyers of Mansour Osanloo, President of the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, met with him at the Evin prison. According to Mr. Molaei, the mental condition of Mr. Osanloo is good and he does not have any complaints about his physical condition. Youssef Molaei has added that his client has confirmed the assertions of Hassan Haddad, Deputy Security of Tehran's Public Prosecutor office, that Mr. Osanloo had some manifestos with him at the time of his arrest and said that those were requests for pay increases for the employees of the syndicate. He is surprised about what the request for pay increase has to do with national security. Mansour Osanloo has been in prison since Tuesday, Tir 19 [July 10] of this year. You will hear more about it in this Evening Magazine.

Hajar Zamani, wife of Farshad Ghorbanpour, news reporter of the suspended newspaper *Ham Mihan* [Compatriot], who met with him in the Evin prison the other day, says that the mental condition of Mr. Ghorbanpour is not good and that he is kept in solitary confinement. Hajar Zamani has told the ISNA news agency that her husband's bail was initially set for 200 million tomans and reduced to 150 million tomans after repeated requests. According to Mrs. Zamani that heavy bail is still not within her capabilities. She added that judicial authorities are not disclosing the charges against her husband and only say that they are security related. *Ham Mihan*, with the editorship of Gholamhossein Karbaschi, had started its publication again after removal of the suspension but [it] was shut down again after two months and 42 issues, per order of the court. Ms. Asemi.

[Host Farin Asemi]

Thanks to Toumaj Tahbaz, who informed us of the latest news in this hour.

We will look at what we have in this Shamgahi Evening Magazine.

While Judge Haddad says that the arrested students of Amir Kabir have not been tortured, Ehsan Mansouri, Ahmad Ghassaban, and Majid Tavakoli disclosed in an open letter that they had been placed under harsh torture and were forced to make false confessions.

The President of Iran went to Kabul this morning. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the support of the Islamic Republic for the present government of Afghanistan.

We will have a look at the Shanghai summit. Iran has increased its cooperation with member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Reactions to the dismissal of the Ministers of Industry and Oil in the Islamic Republic continue.

We will have a look into the straits of Iran's oil industry.

Defense lawyers for Mansour Osanloo, head of the executive committee of the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, met with him at the Evin prison.

We will take a look, with an attorney, at the twenty-fold increase in the security funds for the Interior Ministry.

We will take a look at the anniversary of war between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel.

We will also have sports and other varied news.

Stay with us.

Two days ago, Judge Hassan Haddad, Deputy General Prosecutor of the Revolution and of Tehran, told IRNA news agency that the arrested students have not been tortured and that all detainees are in perfect health. However, yesterday Majid Tavakoli, Ehsan Mansouri, and Ahmad Ghassaban, three arrested students of Amir Kabir University, announced once again in an open letter that they have been tortured in prison and the confessions extracted from them under pressure are without merit.

Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, defense lawyer for the three students says during a conversation with Radio Farda that, based on Iran's constitution, any type of admission, confession, or response extracted through torture from a prisoner does not have judicial and legal validity.

[Mohammad Ali Dadkhah]

In our civil law, and with regard to duress and compulsion, any action that is taken under such mental conditions is not valid and is considered a kind of corrupt treatment.

[Farin Asemi]

Mohammad Ali Dadkhah voiced his objections to the remarks of Judge Haddad, Deputy General Prosecutor of the Revolution and of Tehran, regarding the three students of Amir Kabir:

[Mohammad Ali Dadkhah]

The expositions that exist between the accused and judicial branch should be disclosed in a just and fair investigation, which should be conducted in public court and free of a secret court order. The accused should be able to tell the truth without duress, threat, and compulsion.

[Farin Asemi]

The defense lawyer for the three arrested students of Amir Kabir University adds that despite numerous requests he has not been able to meet with his clients. Last week it was announced that Majid Tavakoli, Ehsan Mansouri, and Ahmad Ghassaban would probably be released by placing bail. However, Mohammad Ali Dadkhah says that authorities have not acted upon their promise. Majid Tavakoli's brother said in a conversation with Radio Farda that his father met with his brother yesterday, Monday, and there is no word of his release.

[Majid Tavakoli's brother]

There was an agreement that it [the case] would be determined this week. They even promised my father that he would be released. However, according to the meeting my father had with him yesterday, they will have to stay in prison for the time being.

[Farin Asemi]

Ahmad Ghassaban writes in his open letter that being under loads of intolerable torture, he and other arrested students had no alternative but to obey the order of their interrogators and make false confessions against him and others. Ahmad Ghassaban's father, while rejecting Judge Haddad's assertion that his son and other students were not tortured, says

in a conversation with Radio Farda that, “we have informed the head of the judicial branch in a letter about our sons’ torture.”

[Ahmad Ghassaban’s father]

They have been tortured. We have written to Mr. Shahroudi that they have been tortured. They have been tortured. Information was extracted from them. My son told me that any information they have given had been taken from them under torture. I am very tired and have lost patience.

[Host Farin Asemi]

Judge Hassan Haddad, Deputy General Prosecutor of the Revolution and of Tehran, said in a conversation with IRNA News Agency that the hunger strike undertaken by Majid Tavakoli, the arrested member of the Islamic Society of Amir Kabir University, is not true and is denied.

Majid Tavakoli’s brother reacts to Judge Haddad’s assertion, and tells Radio Farda:

[Majid Tavakoli’s brother]

It has been very clear. We even announced that before, and have made statements [about it]. We saw for ourselves that they have been tortured. It was clear from their faces and their bodies were black and blue. Their heads were fractured. I do not understand what Mr. Haddad is denying.

[Host Farin Asemi]

He also mentioned his father’s meeting with Majid Tavakoli and says that his brother’s health is not good because of the long hunger strike.

[Majid Tavakoli’s brother]

My father met with him. Because of the hunger strike the condition of his stomach is very bad. He cannot eat easily and has internal bleeding in his stomach.

[Host Farin Asemi]

At the same time the Advar News website, a news organ of Iran’s alumnae, [the Office to] Consolidate Unity [organization], reported that Abdullah Momeni, spokesman for Iran’s alumnae association, who was released from Evin prison on Mordad 17, after one month in prison, has internal bleeding and urinary and kidney infections.

You are listening to the Evening Magazine of Radio Farda.

[Farin Asemi]

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Kabul this morning for a one day visit. During this visit Mr. Ahmadinejad announced the Islamic Republic's support for Afghanistan's present government and denied sending any kind of weapons from Iran to the Taliban. Radio Farda's Ali Jooybari reports from Kabul:

[Ali Jooybari]

Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, announced this afternoon in a joint news conference with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, his Iranian counterpart, that if America is inclined towards Iran, Afghanistan can take steps for peace and reconciliation between its two allied countries.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, arrived this morning in Kabul on an official visit and held talks with Afghan authorities. Hamid Karzai said in a joint news conference with Mr. Ahmadinejad that Afghanistan is a close neighbor and friend of the Islamic Republic, and at the same time a strategic ally of the United States.

[Hamid Karzai]

The governments of Iran and the United States have accepted the reality of Afghanistan to be in the interest of both countries. They have been cooperating with Afghanistan from the start of the Bonn Agreement. Now, if Afghanistan could bring these two great nations together it would be a great happiness for Afghanistan. However, it depends on how the two sides think about the issue. If there is a will, Afghanistan will take the initiative.

[Ali Jooybari]

While announcing the Islamic Republic's support for Afghanistan, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, stipulated that every country should respect the government, which came into being by the vote of the Afghan nation. Mr. Ahmadinejad said that for securing a stable security in Afghanistan, a partnership between countries in near and far regions is needed. President Ahmadinejad said that Afghanistan's security is in the interest of Iran, and the Islamic Republic desires powerful and peaceful neighbors.

[Mahmoud Ahmadinejad]

We support the political process in Afghanistan with all our power and ability. The first effect that Afghanistan's security has is on Iran because we have the longest borders and the longest intercourses, and for us a peaceful and powerful Afghanistan is the best. Iran's best friend is a powerful, advanced, and peaceful one.

[Ali Jooybari]

During Mr. Ahmadinejad's official visit to Kabul, six cooperative agreements in the area of fighting terrorism and security, transportation, mining, capacitating Afghanistan's ministries, and agriculture were signed [between the two countries]. Mr. Ahmadinejad has chosen Kabul as his first stop. Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Larijani, and a number of other advisers are accompanying him on this trip.

Ali Jooybari, Radio Farda, Kabul.

[Farin Asemi]

We will continue our Evening Magazine with another report of the cyclic trip of Iran's President.

Today, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad started his short and cyclic tour of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Ahmadinejad's cyclic tour takes place before the start of the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. Even though Iran is one of the observing members of the organization, it has increased its cooperation with member countries and countries with close relations with the organization. Toumaj Tahbaz reports:

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

A short and quick tour to three countries and preparation for participation in the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the capital of Kyrgyzstan are the most important working plans for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the coming days.

[Mahmoud Ahmadinejad]

It is an opportunity to participate in the Shanghai Summit and we will have meetings with heads of states of other member countries. The strengthening regional organization is underway more than before.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

The President of Iran will have many opportunities to meet and talk with the presidents of Russia, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in Kyrgyzstan. These are heads of states that, except for Pakistan, are slowly changing to a broad military, political, and economic organization. The trip of Iran's President started from Afghanistan, where the presence of American forces and their interference in internal affairs heavily shadows on the relations between Iran and Afghanistan.

However, the Iranian President's visit to Afghanistan and meeting with leaders of the Shanghai Organization countries or its observers has one big difference: the presence of more than two million Afghan refugees in Iran. According to Dr. Mohammad Akram Azimi, head of refugee affairs at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran, this is an issue that forms one of the most important axes of discussion between the two presidents.

[Dr. Akram Azimi]

Dr. Ahmadinejad's tour, from our point of view and particularly with regard to the issues and problems that Afghan refugees have in the Islamic Republic, is considered a turning point. Therefore, one of the issues to be discussed with Dr. Ahmadinejad in Kabul would be solving the problems of the refugees and granting work permissions to Afghan workers by the Islamic Republic so their presence [in Iran] becomes legal. The Afghans will certainly have in-depth discussions with Dr. Ahmadinejad [on those issues].

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

The sensitivity of relations between Iran and Afghanistan because of the presence of the United States will not be felt as much in later meetings between Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other regional leaders. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will meet with leaders of countries in the next few days, [countries of the Shanghai Organization]; many experts in the west consider their [Iran's] presence in such a cooperative organization to be a confrontation with the aims of the United States and NATO. However, what is the Shanghai Organization?

It is an organization consisting of six countries -- Russia, China, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan -- cooperating in the areas of security, economy, and culture in the region. The main purpose of the organization is to put a stop to the influence of the United States and of the

West in general in Central Asia and the Far East. Analysts in the Central Asia region say that the organization has two main inclinations. Abdul Ghafar Kamal[is an] independent analyst of Central Asian affairs in Tajikistan.

[Abdul Ghafar Kamal]

In the last few years we have seen an unannounced competition in the Shanghai Organization as to whether the organization should have an economic or military inclination. At the start of the establishment, it had been said that the organization would be secluded from military and security issues. However, we now see that Russia favors the military inclination of the organization, and on the other hand China has more economic inclinations. Russia knows that if the economy gets priority in the organization, China will pour the capital it has in circulation abroad into the relatively weak and needy countries of the organization and by doing so can discolor Russia's role [in the organization].

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

In regard to military exercises and in general, is it moving toward a comprehensive organization with military dimensions and against the aims of the United States and NATO? An anti-western military organization?

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has asked the opinion of Stephen Blank, Professor of National Security at the College of War, Institute of Strategic Studies, in America.

[Stephen Blank]

In fact, it is so. The Shanghai Organization always says that there is no third aim in the two-way military exercises of members of the organization. If you take a look at their statements in past years, you will see that they are full of anti-American expressions. For Russia and China, America is the target. More and more military exercises are conducted and every day more experts say that [these] military maneuvers have nothing to do with the issue of the fight against terrorism.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

However, in the opinion of other experts the formation of a military organization in the east is a natural political trend for preventing the West's influence. Taher Shirmohammadi, Turkmen – Iranian journalist.

[Taher Shirmohammadi]

If you took a careful look at the last summit of the organization, explicit positions were taken in relation to the military presence of America in central Asia. In my opinion the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an organization that is able to take a position against the West, even [against] NATO, particularly in the region of Central Asia. The trend of events shows that it is heading toward a confrontation with the West and NATO.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

Among the countries of the Shanghai Organization, Kyrgyzstan, the location of Thursday's summit, has a different past from others. This country is the only member of the Organization that has gone through a political transformation that is called a colorful revolution. Many leaders in the east have named colorful revolutions as examples of the United States' and the West's interference in the internal affairs of the countries in the region. However, Kyrgyzstan is trying to distance itself from this classification. Edil Baisalov, political analyst in Kyrgyzstan, believes that President Kurmanbek Bakiyev has tried several times to show that he does not belong to the leaders of colorful revolutions' countries. Edil Baisalov believes that the Shanghai Organization has provided an opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to prove that in action.

[Edil Baisalov]

Bakiyev and his followers are trying to show that the revolution of Kyrgyzstan was not planned by the United States. For that reason, he has always been referring to that point and says that he is not like Georgia's President Saakashvili or Ukraine's President Yushchenko. He is insisting on that issue and [that] all of us in Kyrgyzstan know that.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

It is not clear what Iran's position is in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Iran has officially applied for membership in the Shanghai Organization. It is not clear so far whether Iran did not want to become a member of the organization or if other countries do not want Iran to become an official member of Shanghai. Abdul Ghafar Kamal, an analyst from Tajikistan, a country that is said to be supporting Iran's membership [in the organization] says:

[Abdul Ghafar Kamal]

From the conversations of Tajik authorities it seems that Tajikistan is willing for Iran to be accepted as a member of this organization. It is natural that it is to Tajikistan's advantage. We now see that two main countries in this organization have the first say: Russia and China. Weak countries like Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, even though officially having one vote, have little say in the decision making [process]. Nonetheless, I am not so optimistic about Iran's membership in this organization because the two main countries in the Organization, Russia and China, may not be heartily willing for the Islamic Republic of Iran to become a member of Shanghai. Iran has many issues that it will be bringing with itself to the Organization and this may not be pleasant for Russia and China.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

Turkmenistan, the next stop in Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's tour after Afghanistan, has also not joined the Shanghai Organization. Nonetheless, there is a shared chapter in the relations of Iran and Turkmenistan: anxiety over the presence of the West. Taher Shirmohammadi, Turkmen-Iranian journalist.

[Taher Shirmohammadi]

The two countries, as I have mentioned, have not had great political differences in general. However, one other issue that needs to be addressed is the political activity of the West and America in Turkmenistan. That issue has attracted Iran's attention and, as you see, Mr. Ahmadinejad is visiting Ashkhabad from force of habit.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, along with the leaders of observer countries, will get together in the capital of Kyrgyzstan on Mordad 25. Before their meeting takes place a military maneuver has been arranged in China, [and it is] to be continued this week in Russia. For the first time soldiers from all countries of the Shanghai Organization will take part in those maneuvers.

[Farin Asemi]

That was a report by Toumaj Tahbaz. I want to add that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad left Afghanistan for Turkmenistan this evening.

We will continue the Evening Magazine of Radio Farda with a domestic report from Iran.

Even though it is said that former Industry Minister Ali Reza Tahmasbi has resigned from his post, political observers and experts openly talk about the dismissal of the two ministers of Industry and Oil by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Fereydoon Zarnegar reports.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

The real and basic reasons for the dismissal of two ministers from the cabinet of Ahmadinejad will probably not be revealed any time soon. However, news and rumors about the reasons for dismissal of the two ministers are spreading on a daily basis. Ahmad Tavakoli, a conservative economist who supported Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the start of his government, says that changing two economic ministers in the cabinet is related to their resistance against the appointees the government intended to impose on them. According to Ahmad Tavakoli changes in some secretariats and appointments of special individuals had been requested for a long time in both ministries. The two ministers were resisting those appointees for reasons of their disqualification. It seems that this is the real reason for their dismissal. Dr. Sadeq Zibakalam, a professor at Tehran University, alluding to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's inclination to dominate his colleagues, indirectly agrees with that view and tells Radio Farda:

[Dr. Sadeq Zibakalam]

It seems that Mr. Ahmadinejad wants his subordinates to be obedient, compliant, and enforcers of his orders. Mr. Ahmadinejad has no patience and tolerance for the smallest disagreement, opposition, or denial from his subordinates.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Meanwhile, some circles close to the government believe that the reason for the removal of the Oil Minister is his disqualification for the job after directing the Oil Ministry for one and a half years. They name his failure in the implementation of gasoline rationing, the issue of establishing and improving refineries for gasoline production, and especially [...] as his weak points. According to the Baztab website, both ministers were members of working group on waiver number 13, headed by Ali Akbar Mehrabian. They had differences with the director of staff on issues of supplying free gasoline and not numbering domestically produced cars. The dismissal of the Oil and Industry Ministers makes them the third and fourth ministers of

the ninth cabinet to be dismissed, after the exit of Welfare and Cooperation ministers.

[Farin Asemi]

That was Fereydoon Zarnegar reporting for you. At the same time, reshuffling at the top ranks of the Oil Technocracy of the Islamic Republic is a new weakness in Iran's oil industry, which is suffering from lack of investment and economic punishments. "Bottlenecking Iran's Oil Industry" is the title of today's economic talk from Feridoun Khavand.

[Feridoun Khavand]

The unexpected resignation, or dismissal, of the Oil Minister of the Islamic Republic, Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh, in addition to shaking up Tehran's political and economic clubs, has naturally been under the microscope in international circles. The reason is that the Oil Ministry has the country's source of power and wealth under its control and any change in it affects international oil diplomacy.

This event has instigated many reactions and various reasons have been offered for explanation. Inconsistency between the President and former Oil Minister; resistance of Mr. Vaziri Hamaneh towards the President's appointee for Oil Ministry successor; the former Minister's opposition to the fair distribution of oil revenue, in spite of the President's opposition; the consent of Kazem Vaziri for free gasoline supply, etc. are real issues. Beyond the reshuffling at the top of the Oil Ministry's pyramid is a point that needs more attention, and that is Iran's inability in running an industry that presently provides 85 percent of its currency resources.

The monthly bulletin of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] has put Iran's sinking oil production on display. According to published statistics in that bulletin, Iran's daily oil production of 3,900,000 barrels in 2004 and 2005 has decreased to 3,800,000 barrels in 2006. It has remained at the same level in the first seven months of the current year. It means that the country with the world's second largest oil reserve is producing less oil than its quota allocated by OPEC.

This is at a time when the international market for black gold is at [its] best. In other words, total domestic and foreign investment in Iran's oil industries in the last three years could hardly keep oil production at constant levels. A collection of factors, from control over the legal system of Iran's oil

contracts to the expansion of international economic sanctions, has disabled Iran's oil industry. Shake-ups at the top of the Islamic Republic's oil technocracy will weaken this industry even more.

[Host Farin Asemi]

"Bottlenecking Iran's Oil Industry" was the title of the economic talk by Feridoun Khavand, economic analyst of Radio Farda.

We will continue our Evening Magazine with reports from other parts of the world.

While Hamas forces are suppressing activities of the Fatah movement in the Gaza strip, the Israeli military has killed four armed activists in the past few hours, while in pursuit of the Palestinian militia. Arman Mostofi reports:

[Arman Mostofi]

New attacks by Israeli military units took place early this morning, in the east of Khan Yunus, in which three Palestinians were killed. Another Palestinian was also killed several hours before that. The Hamas organization has confirmed that two people killed today and one killed last night were armed members of this organization. These latest Palestinian casualties come at a time when fierce competition between Hamas and Fatah is in progress.

The Hamas Islamic Organization has decisively banned all acts of opposition to its policies in Gaza by the Fatah Movement. Hamas security forces attacked a demonstration organized by opposition [factions] in Gaza city and confiscated television cameras and film of journalists who were preparing a report of that gathering. Hamas is happy with the latest position the Italian Prime Minister and the foreign relations commission of Britain's House of Commons have taken, in which contact with Hamas has been advised; and [Hamas has] announced its readiness for talks with the European Union. Under such conditions, Israeli politicians say they have doubt in Mahmoud Abbas' power and the organization of the Fatah movement in taking more security responsibility in Palestinian lands.

Mahmoud Abbas has requested that the Israeli Prime Minister transfer the authority of some cities on the West Bank, which is called region B in the Oslo accord, to the Palestinian Authority as soon as possible. However, Israeli politicians say that the danger exists that Hamas will rule over those

areas in addition to Gaza, and will pose a serious threat to the security of Israel.

[Farin Asemi]

You listened to a report by Armand Mostofi. Stay with us for the second part of the Evening Magazine of Radio Farda.

This is Radio Farda.

The time is 19:00. You are listening to the second part of Evening Magazine from Radio Farda.

First, you will hear a summary of the latest news from Toumaj Tahbaz.

[Toumaj Tahbaz]

Once again, good evening.

Yusuf Molaei and Parvez Khurshidi, defense lawyers for Mansour Osanloo, head of the Executive Committee of the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, met with him in Evin prison. According to Mr. Molaei, the mental condition of Mr. Osanloo was good and he did not have any complaints about his physical condition. You will hear about it in this Shamgahi (Evening) Magazine.

Reporters without Borders, headquartered in Paris, urged UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, to intervene in the case of Adnan Hassanpour and Abdolvahed "Hiva" Botimar. The Islamic Republic Revolutionary Court sentenced these two Kurdish-Iranian citizens to death, accusing them of acting against national security. These two individuals are journalists, but according to Saleh Nikbakht, their defense lawyer, the charges against these two journalists are not related to their press [journalistic] activities. Reporters without Borders say that these two have been on a hunger strike for almost 30 days.

News from Tehran...

Hossein Bagherian, general director of Imam Khomeini International Airport, told Mehr News Agency that an unidentified man contacted the airport today and claimed that a bomb had been planted on flight 972 of the United Arab Emirates [Airlines]. However, after a search of the airplane it

was determined that the claim was not true. He added that the airplane left for the United Arab Emirates today at 15:30.

Two delegates from Iran and Iraq, under the supervision of Qasem Rezaei, Commander of the Islamic Republic's Border Police, and Mohsen Abdulhassan Lazem, Iraq's Commander of Borders, met to discuss what has been called settling border issues in the two countries. According to the IRNA news agency, the issues of land and sea boundaries, damaged checkpoints, and smuggling will be discussed in these meetings. The commander of the Islamic Republic's Border Police added that after the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq there were some problems on the Iran-Iraq shared sea boundaries in the area of the Arvand River, the mouth of the Arvand River, and the border of the Persian Gulf, and [he] hopes [the problems] will be solved with strengthening of relations between the two countries.

The American military in Iraq announced in a statement that they have begun broad operations in the Deyala province to punish Sunni rebels connected to al-Qaeda. The announcement says that 16,000 American and Iraqi soldiers are participating in these operations. The aim is to crush al-Qaeda related rebels that escaped to other parts of Deyala from the previous operations in Baquba.

You will hear more about it in this Evening Magazine.

[Farin Asemi]

Thanks to Toumaj Tahbaz who gave us the latest news.

American military operations against al-Qaeda operatives and Shia militias in central Iraq are still in progress today, Tuesday. The American military has announced the arrest of several high-ranking members of the Mahdi Army, a militia group acting under the watch of Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical Shia religious leader. Even though Muqtada al-Sadr's faction left the coalition government of Nouri al-Maliki, Prime Minister of Iraq, a long time ago and two large political parties left the government of al-Maliki just last week, the outlook of Iraq's government is not so clear. Nima Tamadon reports:

[Nima Tamadon]

Nouri al-Maliki, President of Iraq, with due attention to the exit of almost half of the cabinet ministers from the government, urged leaders of Iraq's political parties this week to end the present crisis in Iraq's jurisdiction system by participating in an emergency session. The date of the emergency session has not been set and it was said on Tuesday that it would take place in the upcoming two days. Some analysts think it is very difficult to gather leaders of Iraq's political parties around one table on such short notice. The reason for that is because, in their opinion, several Iraqi political leaders have distanced themselves from Nouri al-Maliki in the last few months. However, Mahjub al-Zubeiri, professor at the University of Jordan, tells Radio Farda that "the reason for not setting a definitive date for the emergency session is the absence of some leaders of political parties in Iraq."

[Mahjub al-Zubeiri]

The technical problem that exists is that many leaders of these parties actually live outside Iraq because of their summer vacations and this is only a technical issue.

[Nima Tamadon]

Muez al-Haidari, Director of Radio Free Iraq in Baghdad says that the political crisis in the Iraqi government existed from the start of the formation of Nouri al-Maliki's cabinet, from the time when most ministers from various parties acted as if they were running their own personal ministries.

According to the director of Radio Free Iraq in Baghdad, the present crisis exists because some political parties are trying to destroy Nouri al-Maliki's government.

The fact that the real players in Iraq's political arena are not willing to cooperate with Nouri al-Maliki is something that Patrick Clauson, director of the Research Institute in Washington, also insists upon.

[Patrick Clauson]

After the ministers from Muqtada al-Sadr's faction extracted themselves from Nouri al-Maliki's cabinet, the departure of the Sunni ministers, belonging to the Tawafuq [consent] front, has caused the crisis in Baghdad to get real. Furthermore, after the ministers from the Iraqi National List, meaning Ayad Alawi's faction, joined the ones who had left the cabinet, Nouri al-Maliki officially became a disqualified Prime Minister in the eyes of news agencies. According to some reports, even some Shia ministers of

the Islamic Dawa Party, or Islamic High Assembly, have differences of opinion with Nouri al-Maliki. However, so far these differences have not reached the point of separation.

[Nima Tamadon]

Can Nouri al-Maliki replace the ministers of the Tawafuq front with other Iraqi Sunni groups in his cabinet?

Muez al-Haideri, Director of Radio Free Iraq in Baghdad says, "The problem is deeper than just Shia and Sunni. The issue goes back to former politicians and forces, inside and outside of Iraq, that control and guide them. In the opinion of Muez al-Haideri, the government of Nouri al-Maliki lost its effectiveness when he failed to rely on Iraqi specialists."

Mahjub al-Zubeiri tells Radio Farda that "Nouri al-Maliki is not only under pressure from groups inside Iraq, he is also under pressure from neighboring countries, even America, Australia, and Britain to obtain the trust of all groups. Therefore, the efforts of Iraq's internal and external authorities are in the same direction."

[Mahjub al-Zubeiri]

In the Middle East the most important issue is the withdrawal of American forces [from Iraq]. Countries in that region are worried that the government of al-Maliki cannot maintain security in Iraq. If that [withdrawal of American forces] happens, these countries will not welcome it for their own security. In my opinion, these countries are trying to open a door, by opening their embassies, in order to be prepared for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

[Nima Tamadon]

Nevertheless, Muez al-Haideri, Director of Radio Free Iraq in Baghdad, believes that the biggest problem in Iraq has not happened yet. In his opinion, the real problem will be when the government of Iraq collapses and the rules of democracy, on the bases of which the government and parliament in this country was formed, are neglected.

[Farin Asemi]

You were listening to a report by Nima Tamadon. The time is 19:08. We will continue our Evening Magazine with reports from Iran.

Defense lawyers for Mansour Osanloo, head of the executive committee of the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, met with this activist worker today, Tuesday. The meeting of Yusuf Molaei and Parvez Khorshid with Mansour Osanloo took place at the Evin Prison. Behrouz Karooni is reporting:

[Behrouz Karooni]

Yusuf Molaei, one of Mansour Osanloo's lawyers, has told the Iranian Students' News Agency [ISNA] that Mansour Osanloo's morale was good and he did not have any complaints about his health. The lawyer has added that apart from minor bruises received at the time of his arrest, there was no sign of Mr. Osanloo being beaten. It is worth mentioning that Mansour Osanloo was arrested more than one month ago, on Tir 19.

Mr. Osanloo's defense attorney said that his client is asking for the enforcement of the rules of Civil Procedure, especially article 129 of the Penal Procedure, at the time of interrogation. The Penal Procedure emphasizes the presence of the defense lawyer with the accused at the time of interrogation. Yusuf Molaei also said in his interview with ISNA that Mansour Osanloo has confirmed having manifestos with him in connection to pay raises of the employees of the United Company that were requested due to hard work. The defense lawyer added that Mansour Osanloo has been surprised that a request for pay raises from the management of the United Company was defined as an action against national security.

At the same time, the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company rejected the statement of Judge Hassan Haddad, Deputy General Prosecutor of the Revolution and of Tehran, in calling this Workers Trade Union illegal. The Syndicate released an announcement in response to Judge Haddad's statements to the effect that as of now no official or judicial authority has issued an order declaring the illegality of the syndicate. The syndicate has been formed with due attention to Article 26 of the Constitution and letters 97 and 98 of the International Labor Organization, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran is considered a member.

The syndicate, in another statement, has criticized the arrest of five of its members and two other individuals, on Mordad 18, and asked for their immediate release. Security Police arrested Ibrahim Madadi, Yakub Salmi, Davood Razavi, Ibrahim Gowhari and Homayoon Jaber, members of the

Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, and Saher Sadiqi and Fatima Hajiloo. They were showing solidarity with the family of Mansour Osanloo, called for by the syndicate. Meanwhile Ibrahim Gowhari's wife, in connection with her visit to the Revolutionary Court, has told Radio Farda:

[Wife of Mr. Gowhari]

I went to the Court. I was told to go see Mr. Razi Moin [name is unclear]. I went to Mr. Razi Moin [name is unclear] and there, I was told to go see Mr. Munajidi [name is unclear]. There I was told that there is no such dossier. I asked him how come the dossier is not here and he said, "it is not here, madam, get out." I told him okay I will go out and wait for Mr. Monteziri [name unclear] to show up. I waited for a half hour and saw Mr. Montezri [name unclear] coming. I asked him if my husband's dossier has been brought here. "No," he said and told me to go see Mr. Falah. I went to Mr. Falah. ["You came again?"], He told me. I asked him if I am a [unclear word] that you say I am back?

After that a gentleman sitting beside him told me, "Your husband's dossier is here, what do want to do?" I told him I want to know if my husband is here. He said, "Yes, he is here. Why did your husband go to Mr. Osanloo's house?" I told him he wanted to pay a visit. He said, "He shouldn't have gone there. He is taking our rights from us." I told him, "How is [it] that he is taking your rights? My husband is unemployed for a year and he has taken no one's rights and he wants to take your rights?" Next, the person next to Mr. Falah, I don't know his name, told me, "That's it. Your husband is not going to be released." "He is not going to be released?", I asked him. "No, he is not," [he said]. I told him, "I am not uneasy; why are you uneasy if my husband is not coming out?" Therefore, I came outside, signed the papers, and came down.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Ibrahim Gowhari's wife, while emphasizing that Mr. Osanloos' co-workers had the right to sympathize with his family, called her husband's arrest illegal. She said that members of the Syndicated Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company are arrested simply for defending workers' rights.

[Farin Asemi]

You were listening to a report by Behrouz Karooni in connection to the visit of Mr. Osanloo's defense lawyers with this labor activist at the Evin prison.

“We, the Women Who Shook Hands with Mr. Khatami” is the title of an interview conducted by the highest circulation Italian newspaper with a woman who shook hands with Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran in May, in the city of Udine; [these are] handshakes that became a tumult in the Islamic Republic. Mohammad Khatami has denied shaking hands with several women in Italy. Ahmad Raafat, Radio Farda’s reporter in Rome reports:

[Ahmad Raafat]

Mauritzia, a 51 year old woman with short, pepper and salt hair, is one of the Italian women who shook the hand of former president Mohammad Khatami at the end of his speech about Islam and Christianity last May, on a street in the city of Udine. This 51 year old woman is shown in a famous video on YouTube, shaking Mohammad Khatami’s hands. In an interview with Couriera de la Serra, an Italian newspaper with the highest circulation, she said, “I thought I was shaking hands with modernization in Iran and never imagined that the issue would become such a tumult.” Mauritzia, who is seen with one of her daughters, Rosa, in the video, tells the Couriera de la Serra reporter, “This is completely shameful and it is incomprehensible for me how a handshake can turn into such a problem from which such political advantage is taken.” Mauritzia adds, “I stood outside the church where the gathering took place to shake the hand of the former president of Iran and thank him for his very interesting speech, which can help close the gap between two such different worlds. He, too, with perfect kindness, shook my hand and that of my daughters that were extended to him, like tens of other hands.” For Mauritzia, it is incomprehensible that Mohammad Khatami denies shaking hands with her and other women in Udine and considers it disrespectful to herself. Mauritzia says, “I am not sure if I will shake Khatami’s hand if I meet him again.”

Ahmad Raafat, Radio Farda, Rome.

[Farin Asemi]

The time is 19:15. You are listening to Radio Farda.

Iran newspaper, the official state publication, reported a twenty-fold increase in the country’s security funds today, Tuesday. Maryam Mansouri has a discussion with Nemat Ahmadi, legal expert and attorney at Tehran’s Justice [department].

[Maryam Mansouri]

In today's edition of Iran newspaper, Tuesday, Mordad 23, Ali Mohammad Shaeri, Deputy Interior Minister for Planning and Defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been quoted saying that the country's security funds will increase twenty-fold in the current year. Islamic Republic's official news agency, IRNA, reported that Ali Mohammad Shaeri, told reporters on Monday in Ahwaz that last year the fund was 7,000 billion rials and it will reach 140,000 billion rials. The Deputy Interior Minister for Planning and Defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran added that it will have a serious effect on the fight against insurgents, smuggling, and probably in the security of the country. Nemat Ahmadi, legal expert and attorney at Tehran's Justice, tells Radio Farda about the increase in the security budget of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

[Nemat Ahmadi]

Border security, the fight against smuggling, drugs, etc. We know that Iran has long borders. After a while, through this planning, funds will be allocated for part of the borders to be controlled electronically, and to press for securing borders, preventing smugglers, [and] preventing terrorists crossing in the East and the West.

[Maryam Mansouri]

This legal expert and attorney at Tehran's Justice believes that job creation policies in border regions can achieve better results with less expense.

[Nemat Ahmadi]

The price of oil has gone up. Terrorist crossings in the Eastern and Western borders have created a necessity for the funds to be increased. It is better to allocate funds to the border regions and create jobs with a smaller budget. The border regions can be developed and if the people who live there have jobs, they will be less inclined to engage in illegal activities.

[Maryam Mansouri]

In the opinion of Nemat Ahmadi, legal expert and attorney at Tehran's Justice, Iran's southeastern provinces have more capacity for getting such funds for securing Iran's borders with its eastern neighbors.

[Nemat Ahmadi]

We do not have an argument with the Interior Ministry's budget increase. However, if we read geographical regions, with the information I have, as I am from that area, in the past mostly our southeastern borders were prone to damage. In the Saddam era, our Western borders did not have any problems. Now, our western borders, from Khuzestan to the border with Turkey, are cracked. Up to now, we had a problem on our eastern borders because of drug smuggling. Now that the drug route has changed to the Persian Gulf, via the ocean, a large portion of these funds must be concentrated on the southern regions, meaning the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, to prevent smuggling of drugs or merchandise and to prevent the illegal entry and exit from borders.

[Maryam Mansouri]

Commanders of security branches, governors, and police forces are part of the Interior Ministry. Their duties are safeguarding Iran's security. According to experts, they will probably be the recipients of the security budget in the Ministry of Interior.

[Farin Asemi]

We listened to Maryam Mansouri's discussion with Nemat Ahmadi, legal expert and attorney at Tehran's Justice, about the increase in the Interior Ministry's security budget.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdish authorities have objected to the erection of a border wall by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The government of Western Azerbaijan has told Iraqi authorities that the wall is to be erected for preventing the entering of smugglers and anti-revolution groups.

Radio Farda reporter, Ali Javanmardi, reports from Ankara.

[Ali Javanmardi]

Based on a report by the information office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is led by Jalal Talabani, the forces of the Republic of Iran have been busy erecting a four kilometer long, five meter tall, and two and one-half meter wide border wall, in the border area of Haji Umran for several days. People living in the region are anxious about the construction of this separating wall. Abdul Wahed Gowani, Deputy of the town of Juman in Iraqi Kurdistan, confirmed the news and announced that the reason for erecting the wall is lack of control by the Islamic Republic on the crossing of

people in the mountainous region of Haji Umrán. The Islamic Republic authorities say that the aim of erecting the wall is to prevent illegal crossing. Abdul Wahed Gowani, added in his press conference that, so far, he has met and had discussions with several delegations of the Islamic Republic, including the governor of Iranshahr in the province of Western Azerbaijan, and has expressed his displeasure about the construction of the wall.

The Deputy of the town of Juman in Iraqi Kurdistan says that despite their objection, the Islamic Republic is continuing the construction of the wall. In order to prevent reaction, we have asked the authorities of the regional government of Kurdistan in Armin, to solve the issue through diplomacy. Abdul Wahed Gowani's objection is with the location of the wall that extends 2200 meters into Iraqi soil. According to a report by the information office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Islamic Republic has asked villagers in the Haji Umrán region of Iraqi Kurdistan that borders Western Azerbaijan to maintain a six kilometer distance from the Iranian border. According to independent Iraqi Kurdish sources, the Islamic Republic is trying to prevent the influence of militia connected to Iranian Kurd opposition parties into Iranian soil.

Ali Javanmardi, Radio Farda

[Farin Asemi]

We will continue our Evening Magazine with an economic report.

In Iran 28 State High Councils will be merged and replaced with four State High Councils. The most important High Councils that have been eliminated with the formation of the new organization are the Council of Money and Credit, Council of Economy, and Board of Governors for Iran's currency deposits.

Fereydoon Zarnegar has asked the opinion of Dr. Mehdi Taghavi, university professor and economic expert in Tehran, about the elimination of the Money and Credit Council. Let us listen together.

[Mehdi Taghavi]

The numerousness of councils, in my opinion, was not a good phenomenon. First, from the human resource point, it was a waste of time. Second, there were different councils. For example, you could have been faced with economists who did not want to participate in the councils. You

would have been forced to replace them with less qualified economists. The formation of one council is more economical.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Did the government not utilize the opinions of economics experts enough so that they would not have multiple duties?

[Mehdi Taghavi]

You are right. Experts that participate in councils are, in fact, government experts. Non-governmental experts are not relevant here. For example, the general director of Central Bank had to go to eight councils and now he only goes to one. This also saves time for parliamentary members who oversee these councils. If you have 10 Councils, 20 members of Parliament need to oversee them. We do not have 20 economic experts in the Parliament.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

So, now, 11 councils have been eliminated and one High Council of Planning and Economy has been established. Do you think this new council can perform all the duties of those 11 councils?

[Mehdi Taghavi]

They can if they have the mentality to use the government's own experts, not outside experts, in special works of the council. When you have one council, all members of the council have information about everything in the government. They know about money, fiscal policies, and debt certificates. Therefore, in fact, with attention to all the information, they can make better decisions.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

With the formation, outcome, and implementation of that decision, do you think the decision was given a lot of thought?

[Mehdi Taghavi]

I think it probably was not announced right away. They may have consulted among themselves. At least the President may have discussed it with the Head of the Central Bank and Minister of Economy.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

However, with regard to the interest rate the President made the decision without consulting the Council of Money and Credit.

[Mehdi Taghavi]

He may have discussed it with friends and members of his own team, even if he did not consult with the Council of Money and Credit. That decision [about interest rate], in my opinion as an economist, was wrong. However, this decision [merging Councils] is appropriate.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Based on what you are saying, we should not expect that much change in the country's fiscal policies.

[Mehdi Taghavi]

We should not, because the reduction in the number of councils means that these duties have to be performed by the High Council.

[Farin Asemi]

We were listening to Fereydoon Zarnegar's discussion with Dr. Mehdi Taghavi, university professor and economic expert, on the elimination of the Money and Credit Council.

We now turn it over to the sports lovers who listen to Radio Farda.

Fareborz Gharib will take a look at sports.

[Fareborz Gharib]

The World of Sports.

The third phase of the final round of the European Football League competition starts with four games tonight. In these games, Italy's Lazio with Romania's Dinamo Bucharest, Spain's Valencia with Belgium's Anderlecht, Scotland's Rangers with Belgrade's Red Star and Portugal's Sporting with Denmark's Copenhagen will face each other. The remaining twelve games will be played tomorrow night. In several sensitive competitions, Britain's Liverpool will face France's Toulouse. Holland's Ajax is hosting Slavia Prague of Czech. In Athens, will face Spain's Sevilla. Germany's Borussia Dortmund is playing with Dinamo Zagreb in Agip. Sparta will welcome London's Arsenal in the city of Prague. Return games will be played on the 6th and 7th of Shahrivar. Sixteen ascending teams will play with 16 [....]

teams in the European competition from Shahrivar 27 during the group level of the champion's league of that continent.

The World Youth Water Polo Championship grouping has been announced in the United States. According to news agencies, the World Youth Water Polo Championship will start on Mordad 27 in Long Beach, America, with the participation of 24 teams. Iran's Youth Water Polo Team is placed in the 30th group with well know teams. Serbia's team was champion of the last round of the games. Greece, which is 6th in the world, Australia, which is seventh, Japan, which is ninth, and New Zealand, which is eleventh have been placed with the Iranian group. According to the agenda, Iran's Youth Water Polo team will compete with Serbia, champion of the last round, in its first encounter on Mordad 27.

Fifteen thousand tickets will be sold for the first week of the Superior Soccer League of Iran games between Abadan's Oil Industry team and Tehran's Persepolis team. According to Mehr news agency, the agenda for the first day of the seventh round of the Superior Soccer League is for the game to be played at Abadan's Takhti stadium on Thursday of this week. This stadium can hold 20,000 people. According to the authorities for the game, pre-sale of 15,000 tickets will start on Wednesday evening.

The second week of the Superior Soccer League of Britain will start tonight with a game between Tottenham and Everton. According to the agenda, the games will continue tomorrow night. In two sensitive games, Borton Andrani Timoryam, Iranian player, will play with Kulhan, and Bormouth will play host to Manchester United.

Fareborz Gharib, Radio Farda.

The time is 19:30 and we are nearing the end of Evening Magazine of Radio Farda.

Here are some brief news items.

The American Military in a statement announced that broad operations are underway for suppressing Sunni insurgents connected to al-Qaeda in the province of Deyala.

The embassy of South Korea in Kabul says that the health condition of two of its female citizens released from Taliban prison yesterday is good and they will return to Seoul after medical check ups.

Reporters Without Borders, headquartered in Paris, urged Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, to intervene on behalf of Adnan Hassanpour and Abdulvahed "Hiva" Butimar.

Hajar Zamani, wife of Farshad Ghorbanpour, reporter of the suspended newspaper *Ham Mihan*, who was able to meet with him yesterday in Evin prison, says that Mr. Ghorbanpour's mental health is not good and he is being kept in solitary confinement.

We have arrived at the end of our Evening Magazine on Radio Farda. Please contact us and let us know about your opinions and proposals. Our contact number is 00420221124113. I am Farin Asemi and along with my colleagues, I wish you a good night. The next portion of news will be coming up in the next half hour.

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